



## News Release

### **Two-story Sforza Horse Statue Heralds Arrival of “Leonardo: 500 Years into the Future”**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – August 25, 2008 – The Sforza Horse, a 24-foot-tall, six-ton statue based on a 15<sup>th</sup> Century design by Leonardo da Vinci, arrives in downtown San Jose from Italy this week to take its place on the sidewalk in front of the Tech Museum of Innovation at the corner of Park Avenue and South Market Street, heralding the arrival of The Tech’s most fascinating exhibition ever, “Leonardo: 500 Years into the Future.”

The exhibition, which opens September 27, is the world premiere and exclusive U.S. showing of the most comprehensive collection of the innovative science and engineering works of Leonardo and his contemporaries. The exhibit is a rare opportunity to see how this genius of the Renaissance influenced and inspired much of the technology we use today.

“Leonardo: 500 Years into the Future” is produced in collaboration with the City of San Jose, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and Team San Jose, and by Opera – Laboratori Fiorentini in collaboration with Polo Museale Fiorentino and the Institute and Museum of the History of Science in Florence, Italy.

The Sforza Horse, designed by Leonardo in the late 1400s, was intended as a gift for the Duke of Milan as a monument to former Duke Francesco Sforza. The 70 tons of bronze Leonardo amassed to build it were appropriated by the Duke to make cannons before Leonardo could sculpt the statue. It would have been his only major sculpture.

A team of experienced Italian artisans from Florence, using tools common during the Renaissance, will be assembling the statue throughout this week. The statue will remain in place outside The Tech until the exhibition closes on January 4, 2009. More information is available by visiting [www.thetech.org](http://www.thetech.org).

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